

Toxic Exposure: Expanded VA Health Care Enrollment Eligibility



The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act and what it means for you.

Health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has traditionally been reserved for veterans who have established a service-connected disability or met other specific criteria. Over the next 10 years, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act will expand VA health care enrollment eligibility for two groups — post-9/11 combat veterans and veterans who served in other areas of known exposure.

TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS COULD IMPACT YOU:

Identify whether you meet the criteria for either group below, and then see the reverse side for information about how your enrollment eligibility has been expanded.



POST-9/11 COMBAT VETERANS

Veterans who served after September 11, 2001, and have been awarded one of the following medals:

- ★ Campaign Specific Medal.
- ★ Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- ★ Service Specific Expeditionary Medal.
- ★ Combat Era Specific Expeditionary Medal.
- ★ Any other combat theater award established by law or executive order.

VETERANS WHO SERVED IN OTHER AREAS OF KNOWN EXPOSURE

Veterans who do not meet the “post-9/11 combat” criteria above but served in other areas of known exposure.

Areas of known exposure include the following:

- ★ On or after August 2, 1990: Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia (new), or U.A.E.
- ★ On or after September 11, 2001: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt (new), Jordan (new), Lebanon (new), Syria, Yemen (new), or Uzbekistan.
- ★ Any risk of exposure recorded in an exposure record tracking system, including Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record (ILER).
- ★ Any other location VA secretary determines is appropriate.
- ★ Service in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn, Freedom’s Sentinel, Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission.

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IF YOU ARE A POST-9/11 COMBAT VETERAN

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

enrollment period has been

extended: You now have 10 years to enroll in VA health care after discharge (increased from five years).



If you were discharged over 10 years ago:

You will have one year to enroll in VHA beginning Oct. 1, 2022. If you do not enroll during this one-year period, you will be subject to the phased enrollment periods, outlined in the table below.



IF YOU ARE A VETERAN WHO SERVED IN OTHER AREAS OF KNOWN EXPOSURE

Permanent eligibility for VA care will be phased in over a 10-year period based on your discharge date, as outlined below:

DISCHARGE DATES	ELIGIBILITY BEGINS
August 2, 1990 - September 11, 2001	October 1, 2024
September 12, 2001 - December 31, 2006	October 1, 2026
January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2012	October 1, 2028
January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2018	October 1, 2030

Eligibility for veterans who served in support of the listed operations but not in a qualifying location (listed on reverse side) will begin October 1, 2032.

★ ★ ★ HOW CAN VETERANS LEARN MORE? ★ ★ ★

For more information about how to enroll in VHA, visit:

va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply

For further questions or guidance, the WWP Benefits team and Resource Center are here to help at:

resourcecenter@woundedwarriorproject.org
888.WWP.ALUM (997.2586) | 904.405.1213 | Fax: 904.405.1301
woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/benefits-service